GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2480
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
MEETING OF INDO-RUSSIA JWG
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Indo-Russia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan was held on July 17, 2002 as reported in the Hindu dated July 17, 2002;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes sir. The fifth meeting of India-Russia Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on 17-18 July, 2002.

(b)-(c) During the meeting, the situation in Afghanistan, as well as in the region was discussed. Both countries also talked about new and emerging threats, including the issue of international terrorism. In this regard they also stressed the need for Pakistan to fulfil its stated commitment to end cross-border terrorism and extremism, not allow infiltration through the line of control and to fulfil its obligation assumed for suppressing the activities of terrorist groups based in Pakistan controlled territories. The situation in Central Asia, Transcaucusus also came up for discussions during the meeting. A Joint Statement was released at the end of the meeting.